

Oconee County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - New jobs- hand skills, soft skills
 - Manufacturing decline
 - Adds value to community- families
 - Living here- commute to better jobs
 - Having a job...stay here
 - Successful in society

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?**
(Strengths & Challenges)
 - We're Average but expect higher with recent improvements
 - Higher percentage of students moving on to higher education and complete sophomore year
 - Break the cycle of low achievement by family
 - After school programs
 - Retention - can you read in 4th grade- if not then you don't move forward
 - Expand boundaries of dreams
 - Job expectations- associate degree, corporate training, life long learning
 - Skills to learn**Strengths:**
 - Family oriented
 - Relationships
 - Culture
 - Diversity (industry, medical, Tri-tech, Furman, Clemson, and Anderson College)**Challenges:**
 - Growth in government sign of more needs/services
 - Apathy towards middle school
 - Look at scores
 - Local students not getting in to Clemson - 28% out of state
 - Expanding gap between haves and have nots
 - Larger class sizes
 - Budget confusion
 - Tax base- bring industry to the table
 - Name of PACT
 - Teacher assistance

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - (not listed)

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Parents must have a bigger goal
 - Work with churches
 - Parent involvement with the child

Schools must fund a "value-added" for businesses and community
Industry must organize to help schools
Solve/ meet issues at home